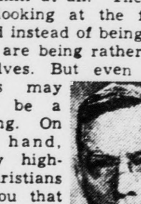
THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Scripture: Psalm 104.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 104:23-31.

What We Owe God

Lesson for November 21, 1954

AT THANKSGIVING time some people thank God for the wrong things, or they may even not thank him at all. They may sit back looking at the festival turkey, and instead of being grateful to God are being rather proud of themselves. But even thankful hearts may sometimes be a shade wrong. On the one hand, some very high-minded Christians will tell you that it isn't the material blessings that count, it is the spiritual blessings for which we ought to be thankful. Well (as we shall see), if it were not for the material blessings there could be no spiritual blessings. On the other hand, as some people seem to look at it, what we are thankful for is "prosperity"—so that if we lost money last year, or barely scraped through, we don't really have anything to be thankful for. Such persons should be reminded that the Psalms of gratitude—and they are many—were not written by wealthy men for the most part but by rather poor ones on our standard. The 104th Psalm is a case in point.


Dr. Foreman

The Gift of Existence

The first point that strikes the reader of this Psalm is that the poet is thinking much more about the world than about himself. He feels himself to be a part of the great world which God has made, so that he feels personally happy over blessings which he shares with all creation. How many persons, on the contrary, are never grateful to God unless for something done for themselves alone! This Psalmist not only feels himself akin to all other men but to animals as well, yes even inanimate things like clouds and wind, "messengers" of God, as he himself is. This Psalmist is singing with joy to God in gratitude for existence, not his own single sole existence but that of all creation. He knows that without the other creatures of God he himself could not be. Another Psalmist thinks of God as creating him "in the heart of the earth." He too was aware that we are related to this earth's crust, the very make-up of the soil determines the physical make-up of our bodies. This great Psalm rejoices not merely that "God made ME" but—what is much more important, God in wisdom made ALL things.

The Gift of Subsistence

Our Psalmist goes further. He sings not only of God's Creation but of his Providence. Nothing could be without God, but also nothing could continue to be without him. He thinks of this in two ways. One is easy to understand—that is, God provides for each of his creatures whatever is necessary for that creature to live, and gives to each creature the impelling desire to keep itself alive. God feeds the lions; but he does not come down in a fiery cloud with lion-manna in his hand. Not at all; the lion goes after his prey. But while other men cover their heads in terror at the lion's roar, not so this poet; he rejoices that lions, like men, "seek their food from God." The other way in which God sustains his creatures — clouds, grass, goats, lions and poets—is more profound and not all can even think about it. But this poet's inspired mind penetrated deeply into the reality of things. He perceives that God's very being, and will, sustain and "keep in being" everything that is. God does not toss off a universe into space and let it spin as it will. He undergirds it at every point at every instant.

What We Owe God

People "exchange gifts" at Christmas time; but no one can exchange gifts with the Almighty. None may give him existence, not all creation can sustain his being, life—in beginning and continuance—flows from him to us, not from us to him. We can never repay the Creator of all. And yet we do owe God something—everything indeed, but something in particular. We surely owe him a thankful heart; not mere words of thanks, but a thankful heart, rejoicing in all the wonders of God. We also owe God at least the careful and wise use of his creation. Waste, such as erosion which we could prevent, or letting stock run down—all waste of natural strength, time or resources—this is a sin against the God who gives us all things.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Va. Among Top Apple Growers

Raising apples is pretty simple when you think of it in terms of the tree in the back yard.

Outside of planting, that tree does not get much attention. And yet most every year it yields apples plentiful enough for family eating and good enough to tempt little boys to steal them.

When you start raising thousands of apple trees as the commercial grower does, however, things get a little more complicated.

Take pollination, for example.

There are plenty of bees around to pollinate that apple tree in the back yard. But when trees are planted 44 to the acre over whole hillsides, there just are not enough bees.

What does the orchardist do? He hires bees.

More correctly, perhaps, he hires beekeepers. These beekeepers with their bees follow the fruit blossoming season from Florida up the seaboard reaping rentals and honey for their labors.

The orchardists raising Red Delicious apples has still another pollination problem. This variety of apple is sterile, that is it must be pollinated by another variety of apple. In planting, therefore, the orchardist must be sure to place other varieties throughout the orchard.

Apple growing is a long-range proposition, too. It takes 10 to 12 years for trees to reach the producing stage. Therafter they have an average productive life of 20 years.

Diseases and insects plague the commercial orchards just as they do the neighborhood trees. To combat these, the orchardist uses 12 or more sprays.

Aside from man's efforts, however Mother Nature herself has a good deal to do with the yield of Virginia orchards.

This year, for example, the trees had an extra heavy set of apples. The 17-year locust was around in 1953 and chewed at the apple trees. To make up for this injury, the trees worked especially hard to reproduce. Another favor in the heavy yield was a dry spring which cut down on the severity of apple scab, a fungus disease which needs water to thrive.

The season in Virginia is a big factor in making it one of the top apple-producing states. The cool nights and frost around harvest time bring out the bright red color that shoppers look for. And the special flavor of Virginia apples comes from the limestone soil and the short growing season.

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Veterans Administration announced its plans to conduct further studies of an inadvertent discovery that one of the so-called "wonder drugs" for the treatment of tuberculosis also may be of value in the treatment of multiple sclerosis, for which no cure presently is known.

The drug is isoniazid, first announced early in 1952 as an active agent against the tubercle bacillus.

As a result of an observation in the Bronx(N. Y. Hospital, isonazid has been tried with what appears to be promising results on 30 of the hospital's patients suffering from multiple sclerosis.

VA said the additional studies will be the first in a general cooperative program of studies planned in the field of neurology. Under this program, various VA hospitals will pool their resources under carefully controlled conditions.

Dr. Benedict Nagler, chief of the VA neurology division who announced plans for the future studies, cautioned that the program of evaluating the effect of isoniazid on multiple sclerosis may require years before even a preliminary objective answer may be given as to its value.

The Bronx hospital discovery occurred when a chronically ill patient, having received isoniazid for another purpose, was noted to speak more distinctly. The drug was tried sporadically in varying dosages on a few other patients. When there seemed to be some beneficial effect from the drug, a limited study was begun.

Dr. John F. Kurtzke and Dr. Louis Berlin of the Bronx VA hospital, conducted the limited study for 18 months. They reported that 27 of the 30 multiple sclerosis ... treated with isoniazid see[m to] show some improvement. ... the physicians emphasized ... for further studies under controlled conditions among ... ger group of patients ... treated.

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AHS Newscast

By Jane Holt

November 18, 1954

...your school pictures come ... We received ours this ... football players had ... also. The pictures as a ... really good. Of course, ... those that weren't so ... Take mine, for in...

...week we organized a new ... school—The Forensic Club. ... are going to have a suc... year. At the meeting we ... officers. They are as follows: ... Bobby Barger ... President, Edna Gregory. ... Treas., Mary Jane Cole. ... Lucy Perdue.

...these able leaders and their ... Mrs. Runkle, we hope to ... many activities which the ... organized for. We plan to ... public speaking, prose read... poetry reading, spell... one act plays. I'm sure we ... from these purposes of ...

...F. B. L. A. has been doing ... work at school this year. ... outstanding, probably, ... Commercial Comments. ... the club decided to make ... and sell them as a project ... year. Shirley Smith, Bar... ...don, and Jerry Nash are ... preparations for the work ... I hope I can get me a pair ... earrings.

...you the members of the S. ... that were to attend the S. ... District meeting Monday at ... Glass High School, didn't I? ... Gregory led discussion ... the Honor System in High School. The entire group gained a great deal of knowledge from other schools and many new ideas as a result of the meeting. I'm sure the S. C. A. will get some work done around A. H. S.

Saturday, the 20th, the District meeting of the Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y is being held in Lynchburg at Robert E. Lee School. Among those who plan to attend this meeting are Edna Gregory, Jerry George, Ronnie Lewis, Frances Ramsey, Gene Carson, Betty Goad, Peggy Henry, and I.

Thursday night A. H. S. played E. C. Glass J. V.'s here. We won—to chalk up another victory for our very successful team. We don't have a game this Friday night. Instead, A. H. S. vs Emporia here Saturday night for the Regional Championship. Now, what do you think of that? We are very proud of our team, and we know they are going to give us every reason to be even prouder of them after the game Saturday. Here's wishing Coach Bragg and his team the best of luck!

Just another week and all of us have a short vacation for Thanksgiving! Are you coming home or what? I guess many of the boys will be hunting. It'll be nice to see many of the college students who haven't been home as of yet. Maybe a vacation will help us to get back in the spirit of working again to get the good grades we want.

This concludes the happenings around A. H. S. this week. Be looking for more news from me next week.

'Til then,
Jane.

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FREE MATERIALS GIVEN FOR FORESTRY AND RAT CONTROL

Forest plantings and rat control are both up for special consideration this season in Virginia, with free materials available to boost 4-H projects.

The Virginia Forest Service is giving to 4-H members 75,000 tree seedlings, 500 to a member, free of charge. County agents have special application blanks and instructions for ordering these seedlings, and will help interested club members get their allotment.

The applications must be sent in to F. W. Patton, associate VPI Extension Service forester, Blacksburg, by November 20.

A Roanoke company is making warfarin rat bait available to 4-H clubs on a profit-sharing basis. The bait comes in pound bags to be sold at 90c each. Forty cents goes to the club treasury, 10c to awards in the clubs, and 40c to the company. The lompany will make $20, $15, and $10 awards to the three clubs in the county ranking 1st, 2nd and 3rd in amount sold, providing 500 pounds or more of bait are used in the county.

County agents can give further details and help interested clubs to conduct a campaign. Last spring 25 counties used 6,700 pounds of the bait and cleared $3,200 plus $200 in cash prizes. On the basis of two rats killed for each pound, John M. Amos, associate entomologist at V. P. I. estimates 4-H work checked $133,200 worth of rat damage.

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SPECIALIST ADVISES BUYING MILK AT STORES OVER HOME DELIVERY

A solution for the housewife who cries "milk costs too much," and the dairyman who says "people don't drink enough of it," is being proffered by an agricultural economist at VPI.

Dr. J. L. Maxton sugests handling fresh milk through food stores, just like all other foods, and disiontinuing the three-times aweek delivery by distributors.

Food stores are already carrying cottage cheese, dry milk, etc. — in fact about half of all dairy products. Why not fluid milk too?

The redutcion in price per quart to consumers made possible from savings on deliveries, sending out bills, bad credit risks, etc., would amount to at least 2 to 3¢, Dr. Maxton says. This would increase both consumption and returns to producers who would sell more for paper bottle use.

The housewife has to go to the grocery store anyway. She might as well buy her milk while she's there, Dr. Maxton points out.

The psychology would be good from the dairyman's point of view, too, Dr. Maxton claims. A separate monthly milk bill makes the homemaker more cost-conscious of milk than she is of other foods.

The economist believes if milk were bought as needed at the food stores, increased amounts would be bought after an initial adjustment.

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Study Shows Need of Rural Health Councils

(Editor's note: This is the eighth in a series of articles on rural health in Virginia).

Blacksburg.- Local health councils could go a long way toward coordinating the efforts of the many volunteer organizations concerned with health in Virginia, in the belief of Dr. W. E. Garnett, rural sociologist at VPI, who has just completed a study on "The Road to Health in Rural Virginia, 1900-1952."

Dr. Garnett points out that most of the volunteer groups interested in health have to a certain extent cooperated on the state level through the Virginia Health and Medical Care Council since its organization in 1946. However, "there is relatively little formal cooperation among surh groups on a local level although some work individually with local health departments. A check with local health officers and home demonstration agents showed 16 counties with health councils or associations. In addition there are several limited to single communities. A great majority of the health officers consulted thought such councils desirable, to further unity of effort—one of the great needs in Virginia," Dr. Garnett said.

He listed in his study 18 organizations primarily concerned with the prfessional interest in health workers or matters. These include such groups as the Medical Society of Virginia, the State Dental Association, and others. There are in addition many national groups which do not maintain state organizations, but which are active in Virginia. Dr. Garnett also listed 21 organizations whose interest in health is part of a larger overall program, such as the Virginia Association of Home Demonstration Clubs, Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, etc.

The combined budget of the Virginia volunteer organizations amounts to over $3,200,000 annually. "Citizens should feel a keen responsibility for helping make the programs of the organizations they support so liberally as effective as possible," the sociologist says.

He says that there seems to be a superfluity of volunteer organizations concerned with health, and considerable duplication of effort, but that it should be remembered that many of those listed appeal to different groups, that some focus on different phases of the health situation, and that a part of the $3,200,000 collected by volunteer health groups in 1952 goes to support national and international programs.

He also points out that specialized health groups do valuable work to which public agencies, because of restricted budgets and programs, are unable to give attention. Furthermore they help get needed expansion of public agncy programs.

Notable in promoting unity between the several public agencies and state-wide volunteer organizations has been the Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care. It began with the support of 40 such groups, and the number is steadily increasing.

One of the most valuable services of the council has been in helping rural communities secure needed doctors together with the aid given such communities in providing facilities so the doctors can practice modern medicine. Eighteen rural communities were thus helped in 1953.

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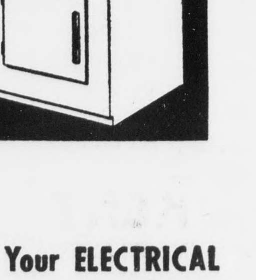

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